

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 2

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Withdrawn allow
cancel

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled) *ok*

Claim 6 (currently amended) *3592493* *intended* *if broadest* *read claim numbers* *as intended*
61 11 33-35 *?*
A furniture system as set forth in claim 1, wherein a post
and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be
abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 3

see Fig 11
adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one
(outwardly extending flange,) having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally
therealong;

cont.
a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and
detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts; and
wherein

said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged
interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly;
said beam-to-post connectors are shaped to be inserted into an open end of said slot;
said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot
extending therealong;

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending
centrally therealong; and

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes:

an elongate T-shaped central portion attached to one of the ends of an associated one of
said beams, and closely received in said slot in said upper portion of an associated one
of said posts; and

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 4

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being closely received in said slots in said uppermost and lowermost faces of said one beam.

cont.
C'
Claim 7 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

said upper and lower key portions include laterally extending fastener apertures therethrough; and
each of said beam-to-post connectors includes a pair of T-fasteners, having shank portions thereof mounted in said fastener apertures in said upper and lower key portions, and T-shaped nut portions threadedly connected with said shank portions and closely received in said slot of said one post, such that tightening of said T-fasteners draws said one beam end and said one post together to securely, yet detachably, interconnect the same.

Claim 8 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 7, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of said one post to locate and retain said one beam at said upper portion of said one post.

Claim 9 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 5

each of said slots in said posts, and each of said slots in said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive a common fastener therein.

+
Claim 10 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

cont.
C 1
said posts include at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

+
Claim 11 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

said posts include at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

+
Claim 12 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 11, including:

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slots in said posts and said beams.

+
Claim 13 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 6

each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

cont.
C1
Claim 14 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 13, including:

a plurality of hanging accessories, each having a hook portion thereof shaped to be received and removably retained in said hanger slot.

Claim 15 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

said hanger slot has a T-shaped lateral cross-sectional shape.

Claim 16 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

said posts include hollow bases with adjustable leveling feet telescopingly received therein.

Claim 17 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 16, wherein:

said T-fasteners include allen head bolts.

Claim 18 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 17, wherein:

said adjustable leveling feet each include:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 7

a base plate shaped to abut the floor surface;

an upright connected with and upstanding from said base plate, and shaped to be closely received in the hollow base of an associated one of said posts;

at least one retainer plate received in said slot at a lowermost end of said one post; and

at least one fastener extending laterally through said retainer plate and into said upright.

Claim 19 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

each of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends of said beams; and including

fasteners extending laterally through said beam-to-post connectors and retained in the open ends of said bosses to detachably mount said beam-to-post connectors to the opposite ends of said beams.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:

*Final as chart OK
S&H 9/27/92 10:35 AM 493*

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 8

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

cont.
C
a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts, and wherein

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong.

Claim 21 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

each of said slots in said posts, and each of said slots in said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive a common fastener therein.

FWD 3513606

Claim 22 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 21, including:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 9

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slots in said posts and said beams.

107 as claim 20
Claim 23 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

cont.
C1
said posts include at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

103
Claim 24 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

107, 108
said posts include at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

107, 108
Claim 25 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

108
each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

107, 108, 25, 26
Claim 26 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 25, including:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 10

FNS 7513604

a plurality of hanging accessories, each having a hook portion thereof shaped to be received and removably retained in said hanger slot.

Claim 27 (cancelled)

ant.
C1
X

Claim 28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts; and wherein

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 11

each of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends of said beams; and including

fasteners extending laterally through said beam-to-post connectors and retained in the open ends of said bosses to detachably mount said beam-to-post connectors to the opposite ends of said beams.

cont.
C1
Claim 30 (original) A post-to-beam connector for post and beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams with slots extending along uppermost and lowermost faces thereof, and a plurality of vertical posts having at least one outwardly extending flange having an end face with a vertical slot extending therealong, comprising:

an elongate T-shaped central portion adapted to be attached to an end of an associated one of the beams, and configured to be closely received in the slot in the upper portion of an associated one of the posts;

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being shaped for close reception in the slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of the associated beam; said upper and lower key portions including horizontally extending fastener apertures therethrough; and

a pair of T-fasteners having shank portions thereof mounted in said fastener apertures in said upper and lower key portions, and T-shaped nut portions thereof threadedly connected

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 12

with said shank portions, and shaped to be closely received in the slot of the associated post, such that tightening said T-fasteners draws the end of the one beam and the one post together to securely, yet detachably, interconnect the same.

cont. *C* Claim 31 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 30, including:

an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of the one post to locate and retain one beam at the upper portion of the one post.

Claim 32 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 31, wherein:

said T-fasteners include allen head bolts.

Claim 33 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said central portion includes a plurality of laterally extending vertically spaced apart fastener apertures.

Claim 34 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 33, including:

a plurality of fasteners extending through said fastener apertures for attaching said post-to-beam connector to the end of the one beam.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 13

(S) Sm w v v v v
Claim 35 (original) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and
the like, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends, and a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong;

cont.
C
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams; said posts including:

at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong; and

~~X~~ at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors configured to be attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slots in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 14

a plurality of partition accessories configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having mounts shaped to be detachably retained in said slots in said posts and said beams; and wherein

each of said slots in said posts, and each of said slots in said beams is generally similar in size and shape to retain a common fastener therein, and define an integrated universal mounting arrangement in said furniture system for detachably interconnecting said posts and said beams in alternative configurations, and mounting said accessories at a variety of different locations.

*cont.
C*

Claim 36 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 35, wherein:

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot extending therealong.

Claim 37 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 36, wherein:

said slots each have a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly.

Claim 38 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 37, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 15

said beam-to-post connectors are shaped to be inserted into an open end of one of the T-shaped slots in an associated one of said X-posts.

(103)
Claim 39 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 38, wherein:

cont.
C1
each of said beam-to-post connectors includes an elongate T-shaped central portion attached to an associated one of said beam ends, and configured to be closely received in said T-shaped slot in said upper portion of said one X-post, and upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being shaped for close reception in said T-shaped slots in said uppermost and lowermost faces of said one beam.

X Claim 40 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 39, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes a pair of T-fasteners, having shank portions thereof mounted in associated fastener apertures in said upper and lower key portions, and T-shaped head portions threadedly connected with said shank portions and closely received in said T-shaped slot of said one X-post, such that tightening of said T-fasteners draws said one beam end and said one X-post together to securely, yet detachably interconnect the same.

+ Claim 41 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 40, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 16

each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

cont.
C
Claim 42 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 41, including:

a plurality of hanging accessories, each having a hook portion thereof shaped to be received and removably retained in said hanger slot.

Claim 43 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 42, wherein:

said hanger slot has a T-shaped lateral cross-sectional shape.

Claim 44 (original) A furniture system as set forth in claim 43, wherein:

said posts include hollow bases with adjustable leveling feet telescopingly received therein.

Claim 45 (cancelled)

Claim 46 (cancelled)

Claim 47 (cancelled)

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 17

Claim 48 (cancelled)

Claim 49 (cancelled)

cont.
C1
12 331360

Claim 50 (currently amended) A furniture system as set forth in claim 49, In post and
beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams, and a plurality of
vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a
floor surface of (the open office space), and an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected
with an associated one of said overhead beams, the improvement comprising:

at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually
perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single
vertical slot extending centrally therealong for detachably interconnecting said posts and said
beams in alternative configurations, and for mounting accessories at a variety of different
locations; and wherein

each said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged
interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly;
said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending
centrally therealong;

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 18

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot extending therealong; and

(5)

said X-post includes a hollow base with adjustable leveling feet telescopingly received therein.

*ant.
C*
Claim 51 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system, comprising:

a plurality of beams, each having opposite ends, a lowermost face with a horizontal slot extending centrally therealong and an uppermost face with a horizontal slot extending therealong;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said beams and at least one longitudinal slot extending therealong; and

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts.

Claim 52 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 19

said posts are adapted to extend vertically to an overhead position and said beams attach
to said posts at said overhead position.

102
Claim 53 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:
each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot
extending longitudinally therealong.

102 : 3513646
Claim 54 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 53, wherein:
said hanger slot is adapted to support furniture accessories.

Claim 55 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 54, wherein:
said furniture accessories define whiteboards.

102 5634300
Claim 56 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 54, wherein:
said furniture accessories define lighting.

X
Claim 57 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:
said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot
extending therealong.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 20

Claim 58 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong.

cont
C1
Claim 59 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes:

an elongate T-shaped central portion attached to one of the ends of an associated one of said beams, and closely received in said slot in said upper portion of an associated one of said posts; and

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being closely received in said slots in said uppermost and lowermost faces of said one beam.

Claim 60 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of said one post to locate and retain said one beam at said upper portion of said one post.

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
Serial No. : 09/800,006
Confirmation : 5256
Atty. Dkt. : STE01 P-1086
Page : 21

Claim 61 (previously presented)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

said posts include at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

cont
C1
Claim 62 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

said posts include at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

Claim 63 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

Claim 64 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 63, including:

a plurality of hanging accessories, each having a hook portion thereof shaped to be received and removably retained in said hanger slot.